

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2407

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, NAC, OCON

SUBJECT: ORGANIZATION OF NATO SUMMIT

REF: A. USNATO 2393

B. STATE 99149

1. AT APRIL 30 NAC MEETING, STRONG GROUNDSWELL OF SENTIMENT AMONG PERMREPS AND SYG FAVORD FOLLOWING ARRANGEMENTS FOR NATO SUMMIT, WHICH PERMREPS AGREED TO REPORT TO CAPITALS FOR FURTHER GUIDANCE:

--TIMEFRAME: WEDNESDAY, MAY 28: HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT WOULD BEGIN TO ARRIVE AFTERNOON AND EVENING FOR BILATERAL CONTACTS.

THURSDAY, MAY 29: NAC WOULD MEET AT 4:30 PM FOR OPENING CEREMONIES (PHOTOGRAPHS, STATEMENTS BY HONORARY CHAIRMAN CARAMANLIS, BELGIAN PM TINDEMENS, AND SYG LUNS) TO LAST ABOUT 45 MINUTES. AFTER TEN MINUTE BREAK, COUNCIL WOULD MEET FOR BRIEFING ON MILITARY SITUATION BY CHAIRMAN OF MILITARY COMMITTEE ADMIRAL SIR PETER HILL-NORTON LASTING ABOUT 30 MINUTES. BRIEFING WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF STATE, PRESIDENT FORD AND PERHAPS PORTUGUESE
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PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES. (DE FREITAS CRUZ (PORTUGAL) SAID HE DID NOT YET KNOW WHETHER COSTA GOMES WOULD WANT TO MAKE STATEMENT.) COUNCIL WOULD ADJOURN ABOUT 6:30 PM. DINNER HOSTED BY BELGIAN KING WOULD BEGING AT 8:30 PM. (PERMREPS GENERALLY AGREED ON 4:30

PM FOR INITIAL NAC SESSION TO ACCOMMODATE WILSON AND SCHMIDT, WHO REPORTEDLY CANNOT ARRIVE EARLIER. CANADIAN, ITALIAN, DUTCH AND BELGIAN PERMREPS POINTED TO ADVANTAGES OF BEGINNING EARLIER IN AFTERNOON OF MAY 29, BUT YIELDED TO STRONG MAJORITY FAVORING 4:30PM.)

FRIDAY, MAY 30: COUNCIL WOULD MEET AT 10:00AM FOR STATEMENT BY HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS DESIRING TO MAKE FORMAL OR INFORMAL PRESENTATIONS LIMITED TO EIGHT MINUTES, FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION. AT ABOUT 1:00PM COUNCIL WOULD BREAK FOR LIGHT BUFFET IN NATO HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. COUNCIL SESSION WOULD RESUME IN AFTERNOON AND HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO REMAIN UNTIL COMMUNIQUE WAS APPROVED AND MEETING CONCLUDED. (SYG LUNS WAS JOINED BY SEVERAL OTHERS IN EXPRESSING HOPE THAT PRESIDENT FORD WOULD BE ABLE TO REMAIN FOR RESUMED COUNCIL SESSION ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON.)

--ATTENDANCE: NOTING THAT US PREFERRED FOUR, AMBASSADOR BRUCE AGAIN EXPRESSED STRONG US VIEW THAT FIVE WOULD BE MAXIMUM. HOWEVER US WAS ISOLATED ON THIS, AND LUNS SUMMARIZED GENERAL BIEW BY URGING THAT US AGREE TO SIX.

--RESTRICTED SESSION: FOLLOWING OPENING CEREMONY, THE COUNCIL WILL MEET THROUGH IN "IN REGULAR SESSION WITH RESTRICTED ATTENDANCE", WITH NO "PLENARY" SESSIONS.

--AGENDA: AGENDA WOULD BE "REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL SITUATION", "STATE OF THE ALLIANCE" AND "ANY OTHER BUSINESS", WITH UNDERSTANDING PRINCIPALS COULD COVER IN DISCUSSION EAST-WEST RELATIONS, MIDDLE EAST, AND WORLD ECONOMY AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE ALLIANCE. (MENZIES(CANADA) SAID TRUDEAU WISHED TO DISCUSS EFFECT OF ECONOMY ON ALLIANCE AND TO REFER TO THE DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC ISSUES IN THE AGENDA AND COMMUNIQUE. MENZIES DID NOT INSIST, HOWEVER, IF FACE OF OPPOSITION BY DE ROSE (FRANCE) AND COMMENTS OF THEIR REPS ON POSSIBLE PROBLEMS OF PRESS FOCUS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES.)

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--COMMUNIQUE: INTERNATIONAL STAFF WILL CIRCULATE FIRST DRAFT OF COMMUNIQUE MAY 7.

2. COMMENT: EXTENDED DISCUSSIONS AT PERMREP LUNCHEES AND NAC MEETINGS ON GENERAL SUMMIT PLANS HAVE LED TO A NEAR CONSENSUS ON THE FOREGOING SCHEDULE AND OTHER DISPOSITIONS THAT WE COULD OPPOSE FURTHER ONLY WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY. UK AND FRG APPEAR TO HAVE FIRM INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPORT OPENING NAC SESSION NO EARLIER THAN 4:30PM, MAY 29, AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT FURTHER EFFORTS HERE WILL SHIFT THEIR POSITIONS. SCENARIO NOW FAVORED BY MAJORITY HAS ADVANTAGE, AS SEVERAL PERMREPS POINTED OUT, OF ALLOWING MORE TIME FOR BILATERALS MAY 29 AND OF PERMITTING PRESIDENT'S INITIAL REMARKS TO BE GIVEN

MAY 29 AND TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN SUBSEQUENT INTERVENTIONS BY OTHERS. MOREOVER, WE WOULD NOTE IT PROVIDES A CONVENIENT POINT FOR BREAKING THE MEETING AFTER THE PRESIDENT-- AND PERHAPS COSTA GOMES-- SPEAK, ALLOWING UNINTERRUPTED DISCUSSION, INCLUDING INFORMAL EXCHANGES, IN THE NAC ON MAY 30. THE MAIN DRAWBACK, OF COURSE, IS THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE EXPECTED IF ALL POSSIBLE TO REMAIN UNTIL NAC SESSION CONCLUDED, LIKELY IN THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 30.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORIZATION TO AGREE TO ARRANGEMENTS OUTLINED IN PARA 1, ABOVE, AT NEXT NAC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, MAY 5 AT 11:00AM. BRUCE

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